Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether, as a measure of retrenchment, the Government will not think it desirable to reduce the rates they are now paying? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The question of retrenchment has nothing to do with the rates payable to others."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" May I know if the public will be taken into confidence in considering the rates the company will be allowed to charge? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I shall consider my hon. Friend's suggestion."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" In clause (*c*) of the answer, it is said ' the variation of rate depends upon a variety of conditions.' May I know some of the varying conditions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" For instance, the extent of consumption, the facilities which the suppliers have, the facilities which the consumers have and many other conditions."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether Government are aware that, if they reduce the rate by one anna or half an anna, half a lakh of rupees will be saved from the amount they are now paying? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware of that."

Use of teak poles for transmission lines from Pykara to other distributing centres.

* 422 *Q.*—Mr. YAKUB HASAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken up the question of using teak poles for the transmission lines from Pykara to the various distributing centres and also within the areas which actually receive the power;

(*b*) whether the Government are contemplating the use of steel poles;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to insist in future that all licensees should use only teak poles for transmission lines as has been done at Calicut; and

(*d*) what would be the saving in expenditure if teak is substituted for steel for the transmission lines from Pykara?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The question has been considered by the Chief Engineer for Hydro-electric development. It is not proposed to use teak poles for transmission lines as the cost of teak poles including transportation and erection charges is higher than that of steel poles of equivalent strength and longer life, and steel affords a better protection against interruptions to the service due to lightning.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The cost would be higher.

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Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Are the Government aware that the Mysore Government is using teak poles for transmission lines ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My information is otherwise, namely, that the Mysore Government is generally using steel poles, and teak poles only on insignificant lines. On all important lines they are using steel poles."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Why should they use teak poles on insignificant lines? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because probably, the cost of transport of teak poles is not heavy."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know whether the steel poles are indigenous or foreign?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As far as I am aware, teak poles are indigenous; no teak is imported from outside."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" I beg your pardon. I am afraid I did not make myself heard. I was referring to steel poles."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" The cost of steel pole given here is the same as the cost of teak pole. Is it that longer life has been taken into account? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, longer life and protection against interruptions due to lightning, as is referred to in the answer."

Law Department

Appointment of a temporary Assistant Secretary for Law (Drafting) Department.

* 423 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a temporary Assistant Secretary for drafting has been appointed by the Government to be in charge of the Estates Land Act (Amending Bill) and if so, what are his pay and allowances and for what period he has been appointed; and

(*b*) what is the nature of the work that is proposed to be done by him?

A.—(*a*) An Assistant Secretary has been appointed to give relief to the Under Secretary (Drafting) whose work has been on the increase since 1929 and has been particularly heavy since the beginning of this year. The appointment of the Assistant Secretary is not solely for the Estate Land Act (Amendment) Bill. His salary is Rs. 500. No allowances are granted to him. The appointment is for a period of six months.